

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
September 10, 2003

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: A Resolution requesting two hundred sixty thousand dollars from the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account fund to assess atmospheric deposition, measure flow, and collect water quality data, perform modeling, and develop cleanup levels for the mouth of Chollas Creek in San Diego Bay. (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2003-0312) (*Brennan Ott*)

PURPOSE: The funding will assist Regional Board staff in assessing sources and cleaning up pollution in Chollas Creek and San Diego Bay.

PUBLIC NOTICE: None required.

DISCUSSION: The mouth of Chollas Creek has sediment toxicity and degraded benthic community and Chollas Creek has elevated dissolved metals concentrations that impact beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for Chollas Creek and San Diego Bay. Both sites are on the 2002 CWA Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. The State of California and the Regional Board has designated the Mouth of Chollas Creek a Toxic Hot Spot, pursuant to Water Code Section 13392. The contamination has the potential to be transferred to human receptors. Bay bottom sediment contamination at the mouth of Chollas Creek poses a public health threat primarily from the potential for contaminants to bioaccumulate and biomagnify (i.e., through movement along the food chain to aquatic organisms that may be consumed by humans).

The Regional Board is interested in working with the Southern California Coastal Research Project (SCCWRP) to jointly assess possible point and non-point sources of pollution at several sites within the Chollas Creek watershed and San Diego Bay.

By memorandum dated August 26, 2003, the Executive Officer requested that the State Water Resources Control Board provide \$260,000 in funding from the State Cleanup and Abatement Account for the purposes of entering into a contract with SCCWRP. This funding will enable Regional Board staff to assess

possible point and non-point sources of pollution in the Chollas Creek watershed, which contributes to contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay. The results of this effort will provide a firm foundation for developing a model and site specific cleanup levels for Chollas Creek that would be fully protective of beneficial uses.

The State Board has requested that the Regional Board adopt a resolution supporting the request for Cleanup and Abatement funds. Attached is a Resolution supporting the request for \$260,000 from the State Cleanup and Abatement Account to fund the pollution source analysis and modeling work for Chollas Creek.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: 1) Resolution No. R9-2003-0312
2) August 26, 2003 Memorandum

RECOMMENDATION (S): Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution No. R9-2003-0312.